Eldridge, Iowa
Ocbober 29, 1956

Miss Mildred Pike, Librarian
Public Library
Sioux City, Iowa

Dear Miss Pike,

As I said in the note I sent off last Sunday - a week ago - I called Miss Grafton on Monday for an appointment on Thursday morning after the meeting at the Des Moines Public Library. I got said the things I had on my mind and we had a rather satisfactory discussion of the plan. By that I mean she gave me to understand that she really was presenting all three plans - a fact which I certainly did not understand from her talk at the convention. She showed me a copy of the confirmation letter which she is sending out after each of her meetings with the library boards around the state. It's a clear, concise statement of three plans - one of which is, in very brief form, the one worked out by the Library Development Committee. The second plan is the one which she explained at the convention - the one she calls the federated plan.

My understanding of the difference in the two plans is this: the one developed by the ILA committee calls for a real regional library - several counties, one board, one fund composed of each counties share. The second plan, the federation plan, calls for a series of contracts between one library acting as a sub-regional, and/or a regional, and all the other libraries in the area wanting to participate. The contract money comes from the federal and state funds. The contract pays for service to libraries and rural areas outside the regional, or sub-regional's tax area. That is probably a very much over-simplified statement of the two plans, but that's how I understand them. In addition to being over-simplified - it's probably wrong! But it's still how I understand them!

In my conversation with her I said I did not like having our names tie to the plans in such a confusing manner - I stated my case much more directly and I think I got across to her that many people were very co fused about the whole thing. I also told her frankly that I do not li the contract system of organization. I've said that in meetings all o Iowa long before this.

What the position of the large city library in this plan is, I don't know. That we did not get into. She's meeting with this board and th Davenport Public Library Board, together, on Nov. 7. Perhaps I'll kn

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Miss Pike, attached hereto is a copy of that part of the confirming letter which briefly states the three different plans. This letter did not come to this library. I don't think there'll be time for us to get ours and for me to send it on to you before the date of your meeting. However, she showed me a copy of the letter of confirmation when I was in her office and I recognized it as the same one I had received from Mr. Philip Duff of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who is on the McGregor, Iowa library board. To shorten a long story, I was asked to meet with that board a year ago last summer, and again about a year ago now, and ever since Mr. Duff has kept me informed of all that transpires there by sending me copies of the minutes and any correspondence he has relative to the extension of library service. McGregor was one of the first places she visited, so I've had this thing a long time, but have never said anything about it because knowing some people (and there are some at McGregor) I was afraid it would get back and the wrong interpretation would be put on the whole business and Mr. Duff would be put in a bad light with the board and they'd stop sending him everything when he couldn't attend board meetings. You'll remember a few years ago that the Iowa legislature passed a special bill allowing an out of state person to serve on the McGregor board to comply with the wishes put forth in a will of his cousin who left a sum of money to McGregor. He is a"wheel" in the Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. of Mpls. who makes the trip to McGregor pretty regularly to attend their board meetings and is trying hard to fit his big thinking into that penny-ante operation in order not to offend any of his fellow board members, yet he attempting to make bigger thinkers out of them, too, in this library service business. It's been a very interesting experience for me, and I'm glad he continues to keep me informed, although, as a consultant substituting for Miss Smith I, of course, have withdrawn long since.

So that's the story of the attched outline.

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